

Author: ALEXANDRU AVRAM

CAPInv. 1186: **bakchikos thiasos**

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Thrace
ii. Region	Euxine Coast
iii. Site	Callatis

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	βακχικὸς θίασος (I. Kallatis 45)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>bakchikos thiasos</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	l. iii BC - i AD
------------	------------------

IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

ii. Name elements	Theophoric: <i>bakchikos</i>
iii. Descriptive terms	θίασος, <i>thiasos</i>
Note	<i>thiasos</i> : I. Kallatis 36, ll. 7; I. Kallatis 42, l. 13; I. Kallatis 43, l. 7; I. Kallatis 44, l. 6; I. Kallatis 45, l. 8

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	I. Kallatis 35 (l. iii BC). I. Kallatis 36 (l. iii BC). I. Kallatis 42 (l. i BC). I. Kallatis 43 (e. i AD). I. Kallatis 44 (AD 12-15). I. Kallatis 45 (shortly after AD 15). I. Kallatis 46 (AD 14-37). I. Kallatis 47 (ii BC). I. Kallatis 80 (s. i AD).
--------------	---

Note	See also: I. Kallatis 35: Jaccottet II 54, AGRW 73 I. Kallatis 36: Jaccottet II 55, Syll.³ 1108, SIG² 1108, Jaccottet II 55, SEG 45: 902 I. Kallatis 42: Jaccottet II 56 I. Kallatis 43: Jaccottet II 57, SGDI 3090 I. Kallatis 44: Jaccottet II 58, AGRW 74 I. Kallatis 45: Jaccottet II 59 I. Kallatis 46: Jaccottet II 60 I. Kallatis 47: LSCG 90, with an impossible restoration. I. Kallatis 80: Jaccottet II 61, SEG 24: 1034
Online Resources	I. Kallatis 35 and AGRW ID 3270 I. Kallatis 36 and AGRW ID 14453 I. Kallatis 42 and AGRW ID 14463 I. Kallatis 43 and AGRW ID 14467 I. Kallatis 44 and AGRW ID 3276 I. Kallatis 45 and AGRW ID 14469 I. Kallatis 46 and AGRW ID 14471 I. Kallatis 47 I. Kallatis 80 and AGRW ID 14489
i.a. Source type(s)	Epigraphic source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	All the documents are in Greek. I. Kallatis 35, 36, 42-46 are decrees of the <i>thiasos</i> dating from l. iii BC to the age of Tiberius. I. Kallatis 47 is a sacred regulation. I. Kallatis 80 is a dedication made by a priestess of Athena for the θια[σεῖται], <i>thia[seitai]</i>.
i.c. Physical format(s)	Marble steles, completely preserved or fragmentary.
ii. Source(s) provenance	Callatis

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	I. Kallatis 35 (l. iii BC) is a decree concerning a subscription for the building of the ‘temple to the god’ (i.e. Dionysos) (l. 4: ναός τῷ θεῷ, <i>naos toi theoi</i>; cf. ll. 13-14: ὁ ναός, <i>ho naos</i>). This temple had a vaulted corridor leading to (subterranean?) vaulted chambers (col. A, ll. 39-40: ἀλέαν εἰς τὸ θύρωμα κοῖλαν καὶ ψαλίδας, <i>alean eis to thyroma koilan kai psalidas</i>). It is surely the same building which is called μυχός, <i>mychos</i> in the decree I. Kallatis 44, l. 42. We, therefore, can infer that the temple was an imitation of a Dionysiac cave. See also I. Kallatis 80 (s. i AD), a dedication of a cave, ἄντρον, <i>antron</i>, to the θια[σεῖται], <i>thia[seitai]</i>, an edifice which is, however, different from the ναός, <i>naos</i> = μυχός, <i>mychos</i> built in l. iii BC. This temple received at the age of Tiberius a courtyard, αὐλή, <i>aula</i>, which had a precinct (cf. περιβα[λεί]ν, <i>periba[lei]n</i>: I. Kallatis 46, ll. 7-8) and a vestibule, πρόθυρον, <i>prothyron</i>, at the entrance (ll. 7, 12, 22). Thus, the ναός, <i>naos</i> = μυχός, <i>mychos</i> receiving this precinct, the same sanctuary is called in this inscription ἱερὸν τοῦ Διονύσου, <i>hieron tou Dionysou</i> (l. 18). Another sanctuary is the Δασύλλειον, <i>Dasyllieion</i> (from the epiclesis Δασύλλιος, <i>Dasyllios</i>), mentioned in I. Kallatis 47, ll. 6 and 8, which might have been situated outside the city.
--	--

VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	No leader is known before the age of Tiberius. I. Kallatis 45 (shortly after AD 15) mentions the θιασεῖται οἱ περὶ Φύλωνα Διοσκουρίδα, <i>thiasaitai hoi peri Philona Dioskourida</i> (ll. 2-3), also called ὁ ἱερεὺς Φύλων, <i>ho hierews Philon</i> (l. 4) as author of the proposition. We, therefore, understand that the <i>thiasos</i> had a <i>hiereus</i> as leader.
iii. Members	θιασεῖται, l. θιασίται <i>thiasaitai</i>, l. <i>thiasitai</i> (I. Kallatis 35, ll. 3, 5, 19; I. Kallatis 36, ll. 1, 12; I. Kallatis 42, l. 4; I. Kallatis 43, ll. 9, 12; I. Kallatis 44, ll. 3, 20, 37; I. Kallatis 45, ll. 2, 3-4; I. Kallatis 46, ll. 5, 21; I. Kallatis 47, l. 6?; 80, ll. 5-6).
iv. Officials	Hagemon Pythionos, president of session (cf. I. Kallatis 35, ll. 2-3: πραισιμνῶντος, <i>praisimnontos</i>, i.e. πραισιμνῶντος, <i>proaisymnontos</i>).

v. Other staff	Three members of the <i>ad hoc</i> commission in charge of surveying the erection of the temple (I. Kallatis 35, ll. 14-17). The <i>ad hoc</i> commission in charge of the administration of the διάφορα, <i>diaphora</i> for the building of the temple must produce written reports (I. Kallatis 35, ll. 15-17).
vi. Laws and rules	The <i>thiasos</i> took its decisions through decrees (I. Kallatis 35, 36, 42-46). The sacred regulation I. Kallatis 47 very probable belongs to the same <i>thiasos</i> . A reference to a law (l. 9: κατὰ τὸν νόμον, <i>kata ton nomon</i> ; civic law or rule of the <i>thiasos</i> ?) occurs in I. Kallatis 36. The decision of the <i>thiasos</i> is called ψάφισμα, l. ψήφισμα, <i>psaphisma</i> , l. <i>psephisma</i> (I. Kallatis 42, ll. 9-10 and 15; 44, l. 38; 46, l. 16).
viii. Obligations	

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

i. Treasury/Funds	Τὰ διάφορα, <i>Ta diaphora</i> , i.e. the fund accumulated through subscription for the building of the temple (I. Kallatis 35, l. 16). Τὸ κοινὸν διάφορον, <i>to koinon diaphoron</i> = τὰ θιαστικά χρήμ[α]τα, <i>ta thiasitika chrem[a]ta</i> (I. Kallatis 36, ll. 5 and 9-10). One of the members is charged to lend the funds of the <i>thiasos</i> (τὸ κοινὸν διάφορον, <i>to koinon diaphoron</i> , and τὰ θιαστικά χρήμ[α]τα, <i>ta thiasitika chrem[a]ta</i> : I. Kallatis 36, ll. 5 and 9-10).
iii. Income	Fund accumulated through subscription (I. Kallatis 35). Taxation (I. Kallatis 36, l. 4: εἰσφοραί, <i>eisphorai</i>). Profitable lending of the common fund of the <i>thiasos</i> as capital (I. Kallatis 36, ll. 5-7: τὸ κοινὸν διάφορον πιστευ[θ]εῖς καὶ ἐγδανείσας λυσιτελέως [τῶι θι]άσῳ, <i>to koinon diaphoron pisteu[th]eis kai egdaneisas lysiteleos [toi thi]asoi</i>).

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	More than 33 members in l. iii BC (I. Kallatis 35).
ii. Gender	Men
Note	The attested names are male names.
iii. Age	Adults
iv. Status	Members include a maker of crowns, στεφαναπλόκος, <i>stephanaplokos</i> (I. Kallatis 35, col. B, l. 39)
v. Relations	Ariston Aristonos (= Ariston I, honoured by I. Kallatis 42 and 43 from the age of Augustus) is the father of Ariston Aristonos (= II), honoured by I. Kallatis 44 (end of the age of Augustus) and 45 (age of Tiberius).

X. ACTIVITIES

ii. Meetings and events	Trieteric festivals (I. Kallatis 35, ll. 19-20: αἱ σύνοδοι ἅς κα συνῶντι οἱ θιασ[ί]ται κατὰ τριετηρίδα, <i>hai synodoi has ka synonti hoi thias[i]tai kata trieterida</i> ; 44, l. 2: μηνὸς Διονυσίου ἐν τριετηρίδι, <i>menos Dionysiou en trieteridi</i>). Festivals performing the ξενισμός, <i>xenismos</i> of Dionysos, τὰ ξενικά Διονύσια, <i>ta xenika Dionysia</i> (I. Kallatis 44, l. 40; cf. also I. Kallatis 3, l. 5, from e. iii BC).
-------------------------	--

iii. Worship	On the basis of the dedication to Dionysos <i>Bakcheus</i> (the term is restored) in I. Kallatis 80 and the various other activities of the group, we can infer worship by the group. The epiclesis <i>Bakcheus</i> is certain in I. Kallatis 79 from i AD (Διονύσωι Βακχεῖ [<i>Dionysōi Bakchei</i>]) and, through restoration, the oracular inscription from iv BC I. Kallatis 48 A, l. 3 ([Δι]όνυσος Βακ[χεύς] [<i>Di</i>]onysos Bak[cheus]). Other epicleses for Dionysos attested in Callatis are Πα[τρῶος], <i>Pa[troos]</i> (I. Kallatis 48 A, l. 1) and Δασύ[λλιος], <i>Dasy[llios]</i> (I. Kallatis 48 A, l. 4; cf. I. Kallatis 47, ll. 6 and 8: Δασυλλεῖον, <i>Dasyllieion</i>).
Deities worshipped	Dionysos <i>Bakcheus</i>
iv. Honours/Other activities	Στέφανος φιλοτιμίας διὰ βίου, <i>stephanos philotimias dia biou</i>, στέφανος ἀπο[δοχᾶ]ς τῇ τριετηρίδι διὰ βίου, <i>stephanos apo[docha]s tai trieteridi dia biou</i> (for the different interpretations see the bibliography) and the honour to see their names engraved on a stele for the contributors to the subscription for the building of the temple (I. Kallatis 35, ll. 7-8, 10-11, 12-13), a hierarchy depending from the amount of contributions, and the right to wear a crown during the trieteric festivals of the <i>thiasos</i> for the members of the commission in charge of the administration of the fund (ll. 19-20). The crowns were leaves crowns (see the 'maker of crowns', στεφανοπλόκος, <i>stephanaplokos</i>, col. B, l. 39). Awards of crowns 'for eternity', εἰς τὸ κατ' αἰδίων, <i>eis to kat' aidion</i>, to several members (I. Kallatis 42, l. 14; 44, l. 34; 46, l. 15). On the occasion of the subscription for the erection of the temple (I. Kallatis 35) the <i>thiasos</i> decides honours for its members depending from the amount of the contributions. Honorific decrees set up for members: see I. Kallatis 36 (l. iii BC) and I. Kallatis 46 (age of Tiberius), decree for Phileinos Phileinou, who built the vestibule at the entrance and the precinct of the courtyard of the temple.

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	The <i>thiasos</i> imitates city practices and awards honours to his benefactors after they just received honours through civic decrees (cf. especially I. Kallatis 42, ll. 2-3: ἐφ' οἷς [ὁ δᾶμος ἐτείμασεν αὐτὸν] ταῖς τε[μᾶϊς ταῖς μεγίσταις], <i>eph' hois [ho damos eteimasen auton] tais telimais tais megistais</i>); and the succession of Ariston I's titles, κτίστας τᾶς πόλιος, l. κτίστης τῆς πόλεως <i>ktistes tes poleos</i> , in I. Kallatis 44, and δεύτερον γενόμενος κτίστας τᾶς πόλιος (l. κτίστης τῆς πόλεως), <i>deuteron genomenos ktistes tes poleos</i> in I. Kallatis 45).
----------------------	---

XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The group must have held assemblies for passing decrees (I. Kallatis 35, 36, 42-46): the terminology for such assemblies is never recorded. One document mentions the president of the session (I. Kallatis 35, ll. 2-3: πραισινμώντος, <i>praisimnontos</i> [i.e. προαισινμώντος, <i>proaisymnontos</i>]). The decrees are introduced, as the city decrees, by the formula ἔδοξε τοῖς θιασ(ε)ῖταις, <i>edoxe tois thias(e)itais</i> , and the honours by the formula δεδόχθαι τοῖς θιασ(ε)ῖταις, <i>dedochthai tois thias(e)itais</i> .
ii. Poland concordance	Poland B 92 (I. Kallatis 43) Poland B 93 (I. Kallatis 42) Poland B 94 (I. Kallatis 36) Poland B 95 (I. Kallatis 47)
iii. Bibliography	Avram, A. (1995), 'Un règlement sacré de Callatis', <i>BCH</i> 119: 235-52. Avram, A. (2002), 'Der dionysische Thiasos in Kallatis. Organisation, Repräsentation, Funktion', in U. Egelhaaf-Gaiser and A. Schäfer (eds.), <i>Raum und Gruppe. Religiöse Vereine in der römischen Antike. Untersuchungen zu Ordnung, Ritual und Raumordnung</i> , Tübingen: 69-80 (SEG 52, 715). Jaccottet, A.-F. (2003), <i>Choirs Dionysos. Les associations dionysiaques ou la face cachée du dionysisme</i> . 2 vols. Zürich. Chiekova, D. (2007), 'Quelques aspects institutionnels et rituels du culte bachique dans les cités du Pont Gauche', in M. Mayer Olivé, G. Baratta, and A. Guzmán Alagro (eds.), <i>Acta XII congressus internationalis epigraphiae graecae et latinae</i> , Barcelona 2007: 1.275-8 (especially about the crowns). Chiekova, D. (2008), <i>Cultes et vie religieuse dans les cités grecques du Pont Gauche (VIe-Ier siècles avant J.-C.)</i> . Bern: 88-104.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Certain

Note

Although it is certain that we have to do with a private association, it is also important to note that the main festivals supposed to take place in the theatre were perhaps open to all the citizens. Therefore, the *thiasos* also had a public character.